

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and to deaf or hard of hearing driver training for peace officers; authorizing a fee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.204 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.204. PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.

(a) In this section, "deaf" and "hard of hearing" have the meanings assigned by Section 81.001, Human Resources Code.

(b) The department shall design and issue specialty license plates for a motor vehicle that is regularly operated by a person who is deaf or hard of hearing. A license plate issued under this section must include an emblem indicating that the person operating the vehicle is deaf or hard of hearing.

(c) The initial application for specialty license plates under this section must be accompanied by a written statement from a physician who is licensed to practice medicine in this state or in a state adjacent to this state or who is authorized by applicable law to practice medicine in a hospital or other health facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The statement must certify that the person making the application is deaf or hard of hearing.

(d) The fee for a set of license plates issued under this section is \$8.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended  
2 by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:

3 (1) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the  
4 commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and  
5 training program on procedures for interacting with drivers who are  
6 deaf or hard of hearing, as defined by Section 81.001, Human  
7 Resources Code, including identifying specialty license plates  
8 issued to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing under Section  
9 504.204, Transportation Code. An officer shall complete a program  
10 established under this subsection not later than the second  
11 anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under this chapter  
12 or the date the officer applies for an intermediate proficiency  
13 certificate, whichever date is earlier.

14 SECTION 3. Not later than March 1, 2016, the Texas  
15 Commission on Law Enforcement shall establish the deaf or hard of  
16 hearing driver training program as required by Section 1701.253(1),  
17 Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

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President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1987 passed the Senate on May 5, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1987 passed the House on May 22, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 6, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor